

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A universal auction system having a programmable auction server, the programmable auction server comprising:

a plurality of auction modules to be configured by a user to deploy the universal auction system, wherein at least one auction module corresponds to at least one function of an auction selected from the group consisting of

a bid verifier to determine the eligibility of one of a plurality of traders to the universal auction system based on previous auction history,

an information manager to provide information to be released by the universal auction system based on an auction classification,

a clearer to implement a clearing calculation based on a discriminating allocation policy associated with the one of the plurality of traders,

a bid transformer to automatically transform a submitted bid for an item of the one of the plurality of traders during the auction, the transformation being based on the allocation discriminating policy associated with the one of the plurality of traders, wherein the transformed bid is to be compared to bids received from the plurality of traders other than the one of the plurality of traders to determine whether the transformed bid is successful, wherein the submitted bid indicates an amount due for the item when the transformed bid is successful; and

a proxy bidder to automatically submit a bid of the one of the plurality of a traders.

2. (Previously presented) The programmable auction server as in claim 1, further comprising:

auction modules wherein at least one auction specification module performs at least one transaction selected from the group consisting of

a bid verification transaction to determine where the submitted bid qualifies based on a bidding rule,

an information management transaction to present the submitted bid via a user interface,

a clearing transaction to clear the submitted bid, and

a bid transformation transaction.

3. (Original) The programmable auction server as in claim 1, further comprising:

a set of trading primitives;

a script interpreter for interpreting a temporal protocol script representing an auction specification, the script including references to at least a portion of the set of trading primitives; and

means for switching an auction specification of one phase with an auction specification of another phase.

4. (Original) The programmable auction server as in claim 3, wherein at least one auction module of one phase is replaced with at least one auction module of another phase.

5. (Previously presented) The programmable auction server as in claim 1, at least one phase consisting of an interval in which at least one transaction occurs, the transaction is selected from

the group consisting of submitting a bid, admitting a bid, withdrawing a bid, replacing a bid, and transforming a bid.

6. (Original) The programmable auction server as in claim 5, wherein the phase is terminated by a condition.

7. (Original) The programmable auction server as in claim 6, wherein the condition is a time period.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The universal auction specification system as in claim 22, the market specification console further comprising a plurality of rules wherein at least one rule is user-modifiable.

10. (Previously presented) The universal auction specification system as in claim 9, wherein rules comprise the at least one market protocols.

11. (Previously presented) The universal auction specification system as in claim 9, wherein the market specification console includes a graphic user interface (GUI) to configure the at least one market protocol.

12. (Previously presented) The universal auction specification system of claim 11, wherein the at least one market protocol is predefined in parameterized form on the graphic user interface.

13. (Previously presented) The universal auction specification system of claim 11, wherein the user defines arbitrary market protocols via the graphical user interface.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A method of designing a universal auction system comprising:  
receiving at least one market protocol from a market specification console, the at least one market protocol to define a function of the universal auction system,  
generating a plurality of auction modules in a programmable auction server based on the at least one market protocol received, wherein at least one auction module corresponds to at least one function of an auction selected from the group consisting of a bid verifier to verify a submitted bid, an information manager to provider information of the submitted bid, a bid transformer, and a clearer to clear an auction; and

implementing at least one transaction selected from the group consisting of a bid verification, and a bid transformation, wherein the bid transformation is based upon one of a predetermined set of discriminating allocation market protocols and the bid transformer to automatically transform a submitted bid for an item of one of a plurality of traders during an auction, the transformation being based on the discrimination allocation policy associated with the one of the plurality of traders, wherein the transformed bid is to be compared to bids received from the plurality of traders other than the one of the plurality of traders to determine whether

the transformed bid is successful, wherein the submitted bid indicates an amount due for the item when the adjusted bid is successful.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising:  
displaying a rule to a market designer.
17. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising:  
modifying at least one rule.
18. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising:  
interpreting a scripted rule.
19. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising:  
generating a scripted rule.
20. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising:  
transmitting a rule to a programmable auction server.
21. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising:  
maintaining a status of bids.
22. (Previously presented) A universal auction specification system comprising:

a market specification console configured to receive at least one market protocol from a user, the at least one market protocol including a trading primitive that the user configures to dictate the behavior of the universal auction system; and

a programmable auction server coupled to the market specification console via a network connection, the programmable auction server to receive the at least one market protocol defined by the market specification console, the programmable auction server to implement at least one of the trading primitives to deploy and manage the universal auction system.

23. (Cancelled)